

Amendment and Response

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Applicant(s): John H. KO et al.

Serial No.: 10/009,928

Filed: 11 April 2002

For: SILICONE ADHESIVES, ARTICLES AND METHODS

Remarks

The Office Action mailed 11 June 2003 has been received and reviewed. Claims 1, 4, 8, 13, 15, 16, 22, 24, 31, and 33 having been amended, and claims 35-38 having been added, the pending claims are claims 1-38. The amendments to the claims have been made to expedite prosecution in view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Support for new claims 35 to 38 can be found in the specification as filed, and in claims 1-34. Each of the new claims recites either a peel force or a release force. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to add a claim of priority and to correct a typographical error with respect to the peel force disclosed in Finney et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,721,136) and discussed at page 2, line 28 of Applicants' specification. Finney et al. recites a peel strength of 0.1 gf/cm and 50 gf/cm at column 5, lines 14-22. These values are approximately equal to the values of 0.1 oz/in and 4.5 oz/in, respectively, which are listed in parentheses at page 2, line 28 of Applicants' specification. The conversion of these values to N/dm is 1.1 and 5, respectively. It is respectfully submitted that this is not new matter and is merely to correct an error in the conversions. It is further submitted that Applicants' claims as currently amended are patentable over Finney et al.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for notification to the effect that claim 32 has been allowed and that claims 4-8, 13-15, and 22-24 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, the language of claim 8 has been added to claims 1, 31, and 33; claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form; and claims 8, 13, and 22 have been amended to depend from claim 4.

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The 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph, Rejection

The Examiner rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that claim 16 recites the limitation "the backing" in claim 10, and that there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Accordingly, claim 16 has been amended to replace the word "backing" with -substrate-, for which there is antecedent basis.

The 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 9, 10, 16, 17, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin et al. (EP 0581539A2).

The Examiner rejected claims 12, 18-21, 25-30, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin et al. (EP 0581539A2) in view of Finney et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,721,136).

The Examiner rejected claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Finney et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,721,136) in view of Lin et al. (EP 0581539A2).

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 10, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tangen (U.S. Patent No. 5,082,706) and applicant's admitted prior art.

These rejections and the Examiner's remarks are respectfully traversed. However, in the interest of expediting prosecution each of these claims has been amended (directly or indirectly) as discussed above. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the originally filed claims in a continuing application and therein to address any rejections if such rejections are maintained.

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Summary

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims 1-38 are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Representatives, at the below-listed telephone number, if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted for

John H. KO et al.

By

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8:

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper is being transmitted by facsimile in accordance with 37 CFR §1.6(d) to the Patent and Trademark Office, addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 4th day of September, 2003, at 10:37 a.m. (Central Time).

By:

Name: Rachel Gaylordi-GrahamRECEIVED
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